

Grantshouse Community Council

Thursday 14th April 2016 at 7.30pm
in Grantshouse Village Hall

*If anyone attending these meetings, whether addressing the Community Council or not, should let the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Secretary know if they wish to have their names omitted from any comments.
If there are no declarations, it will be presumed that there are no objections.*

AGENDA

	<u>Approximate Time</u>
1. <i>Apologies</i>	<i>1 min</i>
2. <i>Police Scotland</i>	<i>5 min</i>
3. <i>Neighbourhood Watch Report</i>	<i>5 min</i>
4. <i>NTR</i>	<i>15 min</i>
5. <i>Previous Minutes</i>	<i>5 min</i>
6. <i>Matters Arising</i>	<i>20 min</i>
7. <i>Treasurers Report</i>	<i>5 min</i>
8. <i>Correspondence</i>	<i>10 min</i>
9. <i>Drone Hill Apps</i>	<i>10 min</i>
10. <i>Broadband</i>	<i>5 min</i>
11. <i>Any Other Business</i>	<i>10 min</i>
12. <i>Date of Next Meeting</i> <i>Thursday 12th May 2016</i>	

Anyone is welcome to attend and contributions are encouraged from anyone in the community.

Grantshouse Community Council

Thursday 10th March 2016
in Grantshouse Village Hall

Present: John Prentice (Chairman), Kym Bannerman, Marion Donovan, Pat Durie, Ian Fleming, Margaret Fleming, Walter Wyse (NHW Coordinator), Joan Campbell (Councillor), Martin Sweeney (NTR Plc), Robert Thomson (NTR Plc)

Apologies: Pat Durie, PC Richard Toward (Police Scotland) and Michael Cook (Councillor)

NTR Plc: Martin Sweeney (NTR) wanted to introduce himself and Robert Thomson (NTR) as Manager and Site Manager of the Quixwood Wind Farm Development. Martin has asked if there are any issues relating to the installation of the Wind Farm to be contacted by the CC. NTR started off as National Toll Roads in Dublin but now they invest in Wind Farms and build and run them for their lifespan. They are working on various projects across Britain and Ireland.

Robert Thomson is the site representative and oversees quality control on and off site. Robert is the first point of contact if there are any issues with traffic etc.

Martin has said he will keep the CC up to date with developments and try to attend the monthly meetings if required.

The Community Fund will be available when the Wind Farm becomes live. Martin would like the community to say what the money should be spent on and NTR are happy with how organized our community is with having an action plan put together already.

NTR is aware that the Community Company want to manage the Community Fund themselves. Martin is not aware of what is required for this to be done. NTR wants to set out what standards are required in the first instance before the Company can manage the fund.

The money is there to benefit the whole community and it is felt that it would be unfair if standards were not initially set and Martin will keep us updated.

One request by the other CC in the Community Fund (Abbey St Bathans) is if One Off Amounts can be released for larger projects planned rather than waiting for the amount to build up year after year. NTR advised that this is indeed possible. NTR also let us know that an investment account can be set up to allow the money last after the Wind Farm is decommissioned (if required and funds left).

One request by both CC's was that County Durham Community Foundation (CDCF) not manage the fund. Martin advised that he is tied into a 5 year contract with them will get advice on how to deal with the Community Fund Agreement with CDCF.

If we can show that the standards have been met after 2 or 3 years, then there is a good chance the Company can manage the funds themselves.

NTR are sunning a safety initiative on site where if there are no accidents on site for a month then money will be donated to a local charity. The CC and Public can nominate charities for these donations.

It has also been said at the meeting that any agreements made and set up via Banks Renewables will carry on in their entirety, nothing that has previously been agreed upon will be changed.

The route the deliveries will be taking will be South on the A1 then turning onto the Duns Road A6112, then the C102 (road to 4x4). There is no planned road closure but the CC will be kept updated if anything changes.

A couple of questions were put to NTR: -

Q1. If any local roads are damaged from the deliveries will NTR fix them?

A1. NTR's response is that they have to widen the road (C102) to 5 metres (as stated in planning conditions). The road is barely passable as it is at present. NTR will fix the road if it becomes damaged. This would be completed up to the boundary of the A6112.

Q2. When do NTR expect the Turbines to be delivered?

A2. They are planned for arrival in September 2016 and they are looking to hopefully be up and running by the end of 2016.

They are starting on site this week and once more work is completed concrete wagons will be brought in.

The CC have also been notified that they have vacancies for 2 positions:

Position 1 – Cleaner

Position 2 – Receptionist (General Office Duties)

Interest to be Directed to Patrick Keenan (RJ McLeod) by contacting Robert Thomson (robert@naturalpower.com)

Police Scotland: PC Richard Toward was unable to attend this month's meeting but we have been provided with this month's report which for the Grantshouse Area reads as the following: -

- Incident 1064 of 13/2 – Report of 3 suspicious males looking at a property that is for sale near to the disused garage at Grantshouse. They had a scruffy appearance. They scaled the wall of the property and left after about 15 minutes. Reg number checked and was a hire car. Nothing taken.

Even though nights are staying lighter for longer residents are still being asked to be vigilant.

Still be vigilant of doorstep callers and if unsure don't let anyone in.

Speeding and seat belt checks still on going.

Please remember the Non – Emergency number for the Police is 101 (local numbers no longer maintained)

NHW: - Walter Wyse (NHW Coordinator) attended this month's meeting and reported the following: -

- Reports of 2 males and 1 woman selling fish door to door in and around Chirnside, these people have now been apprehended by the police.
- An online scam reported by Action Fraud states that some businesses have been sent online extortion demands threatening a cyber-attack if they aren't paid £300-£500 in Bitcoins. The scammers call themselves "Repkiller Team". They have threatened to launch a cyber-attack of negative reviews online.
- Phone scams are starting up again claiming to sell Replacement Windows, Microsoft etc. Some numbers are displaying local phone numbers or mobile numbers. One such scam is pertaining to be from Grantshouse Call Centre.

Previous Minutes: This month's minutes Proposed by Marion Donovan and seconded by John Prentice

Matters Arising:

Old A1 Café: Reports of additional graffiti on the side of the Old A1 Café have been received. Can something be done to clean this up please.

Action to be taken: The CC will look into getting Russian Vine for the side of the building.

Old Toll House: The Chairman contacted 3D garages regarding part of the front door having a panel broken. 3D garages have said they will get a contractor to fix the door.

Action to be taken: The CC will make sure the contractor has been contacted, if not, re-contact 3D garages.

Lighting in other settlements: - Lack of lighting at Harelawside is still a large factor. It has been relayed back to the CC that a blind resident lives there and this is believed to be an increase in Health and Safety as this person needs someone with him when out and maneuvering in the dark is an additional risk. There are 16 residential properties and one business in the area. There are also approx. 14 children living in the vicinity.

Action to be taken: - The secretary will contact the SBC Planning department and Street Lighting department about this issue and get back to the CC at the next available meeting.

Vermin: Environmental Health have visited the site at Harelawside and have completed a clean-up of the area resulting in 12 bags of rubbish being collected. Apparently this should be carried out by SBC each week.

Action to be taken: The Secretary will keep in touch with Angie and Keith Brown regarding the vermin and litter problem and relate to SBC if problems arise.

The secretary will also check with the police in regards to CCTV being put up in the area.

Amended Junction: The adaptation to the Junction at the North of Harelawside is causing a bit of confusion and some residents feel the bollards put up to block the new entrance for the Wind Turbine deliveries is making the junction hard to see and manoeuvre.

Action to be taken: The secretary will contact RES to ask if there are plans for the bollards to be completely removed once Wind Turbine deliveries have been completed.

Speed Restrictions: A reduction from 60mph to 30mph at Harelawside where the houses are has been agreed upon at Berwickshire Area Forum (BAF).

Action to be taken: The secretary will contact the Roads Dept. at the SBC to find out when speed limit signs will be put up.

Christmas Tree Donation: A Cheque for £25 has been sent as a donation to Gordon Community Trust for their donation of a Christmas Tree to the Village.

Sand and Sand Bags: After the recent severe flooding weather it was decided last month to purchase a tonne of sand and some sand bags for the Grantshouse Community to be prepared if anything like this arises again.

Woodland: The Chairman has applied for the land to be registered. Nothing has been heard back as yet. Mark Seed will provide quotes for the CC to apply to Drone Hill. To remove the trees safely, this will result in the A1 having to be closed for a short time and this will cost £5000. The community will get some funds back when

selling some of the cut down trees.

Action to be taken: Check back with Mark Seed and put application into Drone Hill.

Volunteers: - There were 2 members of the public who had volunteered to help in the community who attended the Volunteer Meeting arranged on the 25th February. The main discussion was for access to a shop for the community. There was an agreement to see if there could be an area secured for a shop. One volunteer was going to speak to a resident about using part of their property and still waiting to hear back as yet.

A focus committee will be needed to take this further and any interest is appreciated.

Action to be taken: Contact 3D garages to see if the CC could rent the old garage.

Grass Verges: The secretary hasn't contacted AMEY, SEPA or Transport Scotland as yet. One query was in regards to the boundary at Houndwood which seem to have 1 and a half houses in another CC area and see if they can be brought into Grantshouse CC area. This would mean that the flooding at the far end of Houndwood could be dealt with by the correct CC.

Action to be taken: Contact SBC about extending the boundaries by sending letter to Joan Campbell to pass on to Martin Wanless. Contact AMEY, SEPA and Transport Scotland regardless of result from the SBC.

Resilient Communities: - The secretary asked the CC if they would like more information to be sought in regards to RC. Unanimously they agreed.

Action to be taken: - The Secretary will find out more information about Resilient Communities from the SBC and report back to the CC.

Bridge Painting: The CC are still awaiting quotes into painting the bridge at the Woodland Walk at Harelawside.

Action to be taken: The secretary will check up with the Robinsons to see if they have obtained quotes.

Wind Turbine Deliveries: Turbine deliveries were due to arrive in the area around Midday starting from Monday 14th March 2016. The time has been amended so the Turbines will now arrive in the area between 4am – 5am starting on the same day as planned.

Spell Checks: Apologies are given for New Age Kurling still being spelt with a “C” instead of a “K”. More attention will be taken to ensure that the correct spelling is in place from now on.

Treasurers Report: - As of the 10th March 2016 the balance of the accounts are as follows: -

Account 1 = starting balance of £1091.15.

Items paid, £25 Gordon Community Trust, £73.20 Jewson's

Updated balance is £992.95

Account 2 = starting balance of £10,862.07.

Items Received £2,799.27 from Abbey St Bathans. New balance = £13,661.34

Items paid, Drinks £326.34, Community Enterprise £13,325

Updated balance is £10 (remaining from Micro Grants)

Correspondence:

Road Maintenance: The secretary contacted the Roads Dept. of the SBC in regards to the state of the road at the bottom of the hill next to the Village Hall and along the length of the top street in the Village also. SBC responded saying the roads would be inspected and temporary repairs carried out to any potholes. It is said that it can take up to 28 days due to high volume across the Borders.

Action to be taken: The secretary will contact the SBC if nothing heard before the next meeting.

The Big Lunch: The secretary has asked and been given the approval to look into “The Big Lunch”. This is an event that can bring communities together and also help raise funds for well needed charities. This year’s event is set for the 12th June 2016.

Action to be taken: The secretary will find out more information and relay this in the next CC meeting.

Coffee Morning: A Coffee Morning has been organized by Margaret Fleming, Janet Walker and Mary White. The Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 19th March 2016 at 10am – 11.30am with Bring and Buy Cake Stall in Grantshouse Village Hall. Entry is £2 and monies raised will go to Marie Curie.

Road Closures:

- 1) Quite a bit of notice has been given in regards to the closure of Church Street in Eyemouth to vehicles on Sunday 5th June 2016 between the hours of 9am and 8pm. The closure is required to allow BT safe access to underground structures for cabling work. Click on the following link for map of route diversion [plan eyemouth closure june.pdf](#).

Alternative route – South Bound – via Manse Road and Harbour Road to point of closure

- 2) The A6105 at the bottom of Chirnside will be closed from the 28th March 2016 for 4 weeks. Smaller vehicles can travel through the centre of the village but larger vehicles would be diverted from point A to point B via the road passing Wedderburn Castle. The closure is to allow for Sewage Works to be completed. Click on the following link for map of route diversion [Chirnside road closure March 2016.pdf](#).

Royal Mail Collections: Royal Mail were contacted after it was discovered that mail collections were not happening at the times stated on the post box in the Village. Not only had the previous collection time of 3.45pm been changed without notification to 12 noon but collections were not happening.

Royal Mail looked into this and responded by saying “due to Office Revisions the box is currently the last box to be cleared on the driver’s route back to Edinburgh and as such is receiving a final collection around 6pm. Unfortunately, they are unable to amend the official collection time for this box to a later time as this is subject to change if any future revisions take place in the office”

Drone Hill Applications: The DH Liaison Group will be meeting to discuss how the underspent funds should be divided up. At present the Communities involved are shown as follows: -

1. Cockshurnspath	= £16,106.77	= 21%
2. Reston & Auchencrow	= £15,586.00	= 20%
3. Coldingham	= £15,617.78	= 20%
4. Grantshouse	= £8,995.40	= 12%
5. Multiple Areas	= £20,257.53	= 27%

One area which could also be discussed is the inclusion of Multiple Areas as they seem to have a large selection of the funds for the CC areas which are included.

Broadband:

The CC's involved in trying to bring Broadband(BB) into the Berwickshire Area met with Lothian BB. They sound positive on helping out but need funds. The Chairman will be meeting with BRISCONA next week.

The Gavinton CC Chairman is standing down from the BB Committee. It would be unfair for local communities to go through the mill for finding BB.

The Gavinton CC Chairman suggests identifying someone who knows what has been going on and is up to date with the group and can get on with the job.

It is felt that if all communities had access to Superfast BB then properties out with 1.5km from the main hub would see a drop in signal and service.

Mark Rowley says there is a need for BB and the risk is so great that it is felt that the Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) model should be looked into further.

There is £9 Million available from CBS over the next 3 years.

It was asked if Satellite BB would be worthwhile? It is felt that with Time Lagging (uploading/downloading), Drop Outs (Ping Time) etc. that it wouldn't a suitable consideration.

The process to bring BB to the Berwickshire Area is huge and the areas would have to show CBS that they are deserving of any funding.

Action to be taken: Check with the Chairman on his meeting with BRISCONA. Find out more regarding CBS funding.

Any Other Business (AOB):

Coffee Mornings: The Coffee Mornings organized by Margaret Fleming, Janet Walker and Mary White will be taking place on the 3rd Saturday of each month and each time will help to raise funds for different charities.

The coffee morning taking place on Saturday 19th March 2016 in the Village Hall between 10am – 11.30am id for Marie Curie (Luke Robertson who is the youngest Scot to walk to the South Pole unassisted and is aiming on raising £100,000 for Marie Curie and is at present has raised £64,000) the £2 entry and Bring and Buy cake stall will help raise funds to add to this great cause.

Date of Next Meeting: Will be Thursday 14th April 2016 at 7.30pm in Grantshouse Village Hall.